Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association

Executive Notes

Your Provincial Executive Council met on June 5 and 6 in St. John's to discuss matters of importance and urgency to teachers. This meeting was followed by a Joint Council meeting on June 6 and 7. Executive Notes is intended to keep you informed and up-to-date on the actions of Provincial Executive and Joint Council on your behalf. A meeting was regularly scheduled for June 12 and 13 but changes in the status of negotiations warranted an earlier meeting.

Pensions/Negotiations
A tentative collective agreement has been reached which includes modifications to the pension plan and improvements to the overall contract. The details of the collective agreement are being distributed to teachers and a vote will take place on June 17. Joint Council has recommended acceptance of the tentative package. For more information contact: your Branch President; Fred Andrews, Vice-President; or Ed Hancock in Benefits and Economic Services.

Executive/Joint Council Meetings for 1998-99	
August 27, 28	
October 2, 3	
November 19,20	Joint Council 20, 21
January 8, 9	
February 4, 5	Joint Council 6
March 5, 6	
April 6	Pre-Convention
April 9	Post-Convention
June 4, 5	

For further information contact Geralyn Costello, Assistant to the President.

Teacher Certification
A committee will be appointed to deal with teacher certification. A strategy will be put in place to deal with this issue. NLTA must have input at the very beginning of any proposed changes to teacher certification. For further information contact Benefits and Economic Services.

Curriculum
The issue of student support services is a major concern for teachers and was discussed at length at the Executive Table. It is a concern that a great deal of work will be downloaded onto teachers under the proposed changes to student support services. The President of NLTA will write the Minister of Education addressing concerns with the delivery of student support services and suggesting that a moratorium be placed on the implementation of new procedures and policies pertaining to the delivery of student support services, pending further study and consultation with all stakeholders, as well as the delineation of an adequate professional development plan.

The Association will also recommend the establishment of a Provincial Advisory Committee on Special Education, as recommended in the Canning Report to review special education policies and suggest a plan for implementation that will consider the needs of all students. The Association will also advise the Department of Education to address and revisit the recommendations of the Canning Report. For further information contact Don Ash, Chair of the Curriculum Committee or René Wicks, Professional Development Division.

Changes to Provincial Executive Council

A member of Provincial Executive Council, Karen Warr, has resigned her position on Provincial Executive Council to pursue Ph.D. studies. A new Executive Member will be in place by August of this year. The President and Provincial Executive Council would like to thank Karen for her dedication and hard work and wish her well in her studies. For more information contact Brendan Doyle.

School Councils

NLTA will develop a policy which addresses the issues of the voluntary nature of, the monetary reward for, and the protection of teachers serving on school councils. An extensive survey has been carried out in this area on school councils in general. For further information contact Winston Carter, Chair of Membership Benefits and Services Committee, or Lloyd Hobbs in Benefits and Economic Services.

The next meeting of Provincial Executive is scheduled for August 27, 28 in Stephenville. For further information contact Geralyn Costello.